

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL</b>	
	<b>Chapter 8:</b> Out-of-Home Services	<b>Effective Date:</b> June 1, 2008
	<b>Section 23:</b> Extracurricular Activities	<b>Version:</b> 1

**POLICY: [NEW]**

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will partner with the resource family of a child in out-of-home care to allow the child to participate in extracurricular activities.

DCS will ensure that the activity is age-appropriate, reasonably safe, provides appropriate supervision, and has limited or no risk of harm or injury.

DCS will require that the resource family of a child in out-of-home care notify the child's Family Case Manager (FCM) in writing (email is acceptable) or by phone of any extracurricular activities that the child will participate in.

DCS will ensure that the child's parent, guardian, or custodian and the court are informed of all extracurricular activities that the child will participate in.

DCS retains the right to deny the child's participation in an extracurricular activity if it is deemed not to be in the best interest of the child.

Code References

N/A

**PROCEDURE**

The FCM will:

1. Discuss with the resource parent about the child's participation in the extracurricular activity and ensure that the resource parent has current information regarding the child's history (medical, social, prior participation) so that the resource parent can make an informed decision to allow the child to participate;
2. Ensure that any extracurricular activity that the child participates in:
  - a. Is age-appropriate,
  - b. Is reasonably safe,
  - c. Provides appropriate supervision, and
  - d. Has limited or no risk of harm or injury.
3. Convene a Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting, if there are any concerns regarding the extracurricular activity (safety, age-appropriateness, adult supervision, etc.) to discuss the activity and make a recommendation regarding the child's participation. See related policy, [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#);

**Note:** If the child's extracurricular participation involves an overnight activity or event, see separate policy, [8.24 Travel, Outings and Overnight Stays while in Out-of-Home](#)

[Care](#) for details on required verbal approval or notice within seven (7) days of the activity or event.

4. Inform the members of the CFT of the child's participation in an extracurricular activity; and
5. Document information regarding the activity in the Indiana Child Welfare Information System (ICWIS) 'Contacts.'

#### **PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Children in out-of-home care deserve the right to a normalized experience of childhood, including participation in extracurricular activities such as sports, scouting, sleepovers with friends, group meetings with friends, proms, and so forth.

Resource families and caregivers should carefully consider the child's participation in each extracurricular activity, and determine if the activity is appropriate given the child's age, interests and abilities, mental and physical health, behavioral issues, and safety needs.

Extracurricular activities for children in out-of-home care should be limited to those activities that are "reasonably safe." If there is a concern regarding the safety or appropriateness of a particular activity for an individual child, the CFT should be convened to review the proposed activity and make a recommendation regarding the child's participation.

#### **FORMS AND TOOLS**

N/A

#### **RELATED INFORMATION**

N/A